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Illinois
Environmental
Protection Agency

2200 Churchill Road
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

Summer 1989

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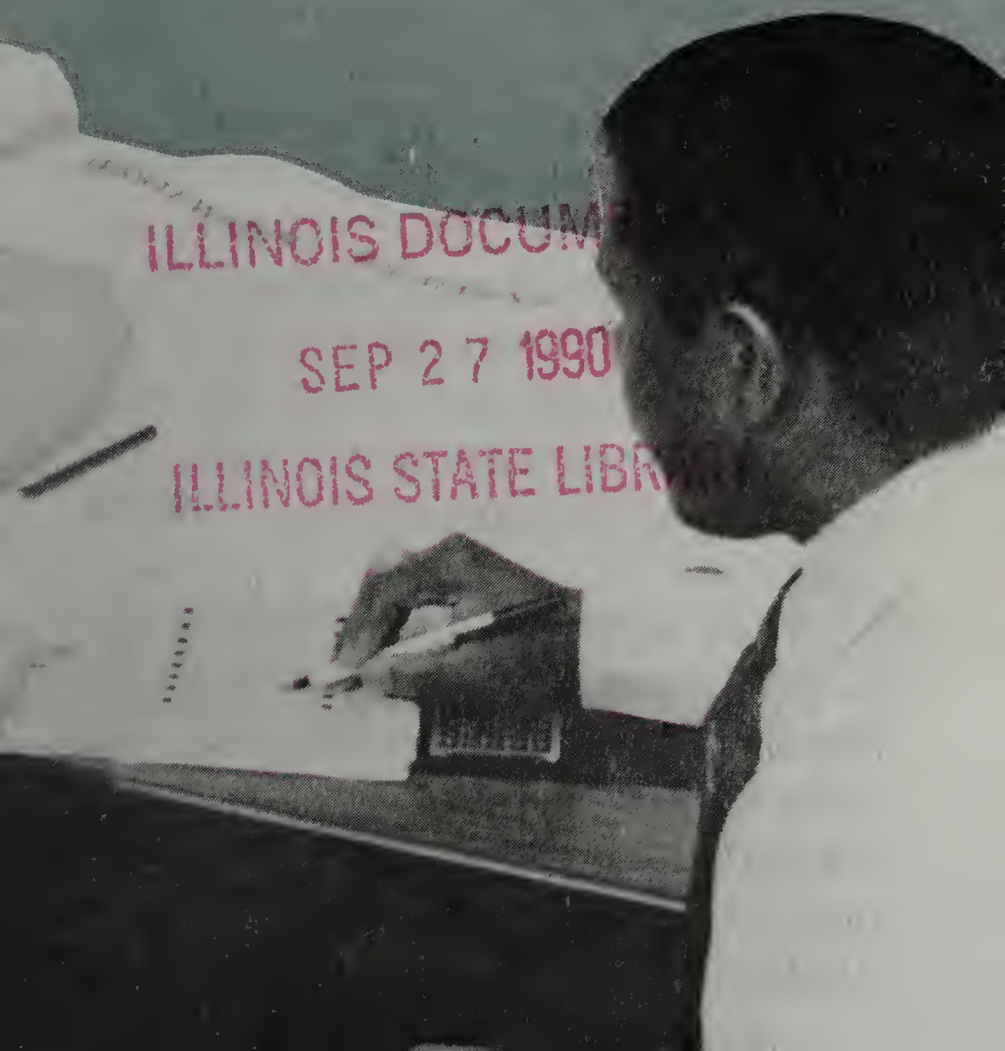
Do you need to upgrade your sewage treatment plant, extend sewer lines or hook up septic tank users? Do you need financial assistance?



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The Illinois Water Revolving Fund m

The federal Water Quality Act of 1987 changed the way in which federal assistance for public wastewater projects would be provided. The change is from direct grants to low interest loans administered by the states.

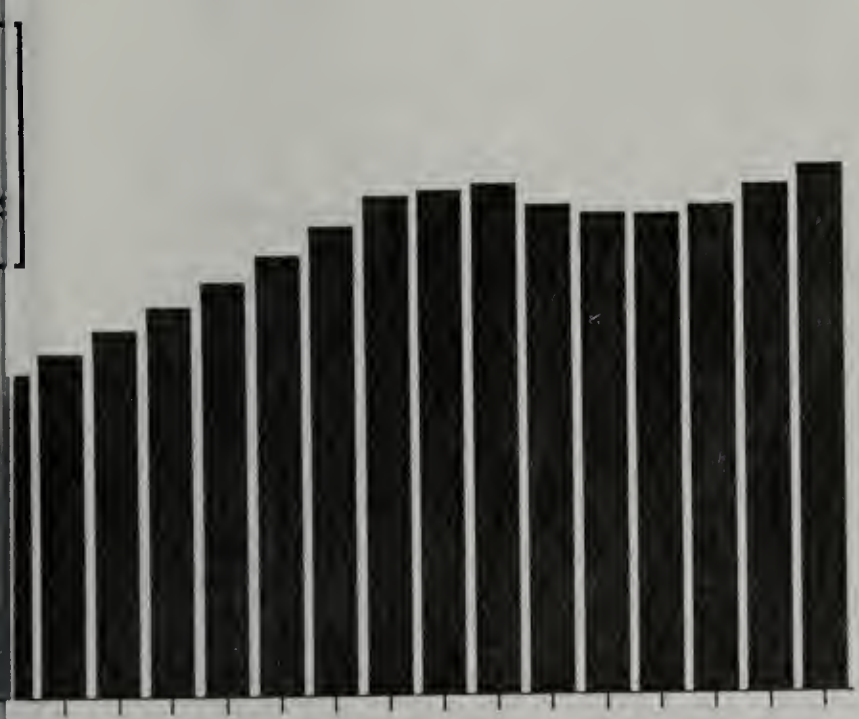
In August 1988, Gov. James R. Thompson signed legislation that established the Illinois Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund (WPCRF) which provided Illinois' 20 percent match required to start up a revolving loan program and designated the Illinois Environ-

ollution Control
y be your answer.

mental Protection Agency (IEPA) as the administrator of the program.

The revolving aspects of the WPCRF (illustrated in the graph below) provide communities with financial assistance into the 21st century without additional state or federal funding beyond the initial capitalization period. Long term maintenance of Illinois' infrastructure will preserve our state's natural resources and provide future generations with clean water for drinking and recreation.

PROGRAM SOURCE OF FUNDS



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Fiscal Year

Steps to Receive a WPCRF Loan

Eligibility - Any city, village or sanitary district with the following types of projects is eligible to receive a WPCRF loan:

- constructing new collection and treatment facilities, or upgrading and expanding existing facilities;
- replacing, rehabilitating or extending collection systems and interceptors;
- separating combined sewers or upgrading combined systems to eliminate overflows, surcharging or flooding.

In April of each year the IEPA scores all submitted pre-applications and prioritizes the list of applicants. The fundable range is based on the amount of loan money available that fiscal year (refer to chart). Loan funds are committed to the highest priority projects provided they are scheduled to be under construction by March 31 of the next calendar year.

The prioritized list is published for public comment in July. The following January projects which have not proceeded on schedule are bypassed allowing other projects to utilize available loan funds.

Loan assistance is provided at an interest rate of one-half the rate charged for 20 year general obligation loans (based on the annual average of the index published in the Bond Buyer). Historically, this will result in a rate of approximately 4 percent.

Planning - WPCRF loan applicants must submit a facility plan to the IEPA, explaining the conditions and problems of the facility and its service area as well as proposed alternatives to remedy the problems, including an evaluation and a description of the chosen cost-effective alternative.

Infiltration/Inflow and/or Sewer System Evaluation Studies may also be required to determine the soundness of the sewer system.

The IEPA reviews the information to determine if the project will have an impact on the environment. A public hearing will be held allowing citizens to ask questions and voice concerns about the project, and suggest changes where appropriate.

Design - Plans and specifications (construction drawings and contract documents) prepared by the applicant's engineer must be submitted and reviewed by the IEPA.

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FY	89	90	91	92	93	94	Total
Federal $	50	50	100	75	50	25	350M
State $	10	10	20	15	10	5	70M
TOTAL	60M	60M	120M	90M	60M	30M	420M

This information must conform with the facility plan and the Illinois Recommended Standards for Sewage Treatment Works.

An application package must also contain:

- agreement with an architectural/engineering firm for services during construction;
- acquisition of all right-of-ways, easements and property;
- development of ordinances for user charges and the dedicated source of revenue for repayment of the loan; and
- summary and recommendation on the bids received.

Construction - The community is responsible for the administration of the project. Accurate and detailed records must be kept and the contractor and engineer monitored at all times.

The IEPA's regional field offices will conduct periodic and final site inspections. They will monitor the progress and conformity of the project with the Agency's recommendations.

Closing Out - A final inspection is conducted when construction is successfully completed. After one year of operation, the community must certify that the project is meeting all project performance standards.

Once this has been accepted and the final audit and inspection are satisfactorily completed, the project will be closed out. The community must continue to annually review the user charge system and submit audits for IEPA review.

Repayment - Loan repayments will begin within 90 days of operation. The IEPA's regional field offices will confirm the date established in the loan agreement when the facilities become operational.

Printed by authority of
the State of Illinois
Job No.20093 9/90 2000

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For more information contact:
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Division of Water Pollution Control
Grant Administration Section
2200 Churchill Road
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, IL 62794-9276
217/782-2027

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